

## Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

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R 041040Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1301

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 0887

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: CYPRUS ANTIQUITIES: ALLEGED THEFT OF GREEK ARTIFACTS

REF: STATE 046178

1. FYI: IN OUR ONLY PARTIALLY INFORMED VIEW, BOTH SIDES  
IN THIS CONFLICT HAVE BEEN QUILTY OF DESTROYING/STEALING  
VALUABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPERTIES. BALANCE OF FAULT IN  
THIS IS CERTAINLY ON THE TURKISH SIDE. BUT MANY HYSTERICAL  
GREEK ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN DISPROVED ON CLOSER INQUIRY,  
E. G. THE BOMBING OF SALAMIS. AS ANOTHER CASE IN POINT,  
HARVARD'S DR EMILY VERMEULE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THAT PROVEN  
THEFTS FROM UNIVERSITY'S MORPHOU COLLECTION HAD BEEN  
RESPONSIBILITY OF TURKISH OCCUPYING FORCES. IN THE OPINION  
OF EXPEDITION'S OWN LOCAL CUSTODIAN, AN OBJECTIVE MARONITE, THEFT  
OF MOST VALUABLE PIECES EQUALY LIKELY TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT  
TIME OF JULY 15 COUP BY GREEKS.

2. IN OTHER CASES (AYIOS KHRYSOSTOMOS MONASTERY), GREEKS  
PRECIPITATED TURKISH DESTRUCTION BY USING ANCIENT SITES AS  
NATIONAL GUARD CENTERS, FOR CONCEALMENT OF WEAPONS, ETC.

3. ON DIRECT KNOWLEDGE, EMBASSY CAN TESTIFY THAT TURKS  
WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA/  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KYRENIA SHIPWRECK MUSEUM, COMPLETE  
REMOVAL OF VALUABLE PRIVATE COLLECTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN  
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LOCATED IN NORTH, AND VERY RECENT ILLEGAL TOMB-DIGGING

IN MYCENAEAN SITE OF ENGOMI. END FYI.

4. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, A SOUND POSITION FOR DEPARTMENT TO  
TAKE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES WOULD BE THAT (A) DURING AND  
SINCE EVENTS OF LAST SUMMER, US HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER  
POSSIBLE DAMAGES TO CYPRUS' UNIQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE;  
(B) WE ARE AWARE THAT THE PARTIES TO CONFLICT HAVE  
EXCHANGED ACCUSATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPREDATION  
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPERTY; (C) AS AN OUTGROWTH OF OUR  
CONCERN, WE HAVE WELCOMED THE ASSIGNMENT TO CYPRUS, AS  
A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (AMBASSADOR WECKMANN), OF A UNESCO  
EXPERT (DR DALIBARD) TO WORK WITH THE PARTIES TO PRESERVE  
THE ISLAND'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL INHERITANCE FROM FURTHER  
DAMAGE.

CRAWFORD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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